



### SMOKELESS POWDER

The frenchman Paul Vieille (1833-1896) invented smokeless powder in 1884. This invention was a tremendous step forward. Detonation of this explosive did not leave any combustion residues and produced little or no smoke. It also had unexpected ballistic advantages. Smokeless powder allowed caliber reduction in service rifles from the ten current .44 caliber (11mm.) to .27 or .32 calibers (7 or 8 mm.), resulting in range increase, better accuracy, and lower trajectories. However, while Paul Vieille was the first to perfect a smokeless powder, he was soon followed by inventors from other industrialized countries. Within two or three years following his invention, every major country had its own smokeless powder, perfected through domestic research.

In the United States, smokeless powder, was perfected in 1890 at Maxim, Monmouth County, New Jersey.